



Community & Residential Services Authority

MEMBERS PRESENT

Springfield Location:

Michele Carmichael	Alan Dietrich	David Elder	Susan Fonfa
Seth Harkins	Merlin Lehman	Dee Ann Ryan	Randy Staton
Julie Stremlau			

Chicago Location: (attending by Video conference)

Kathy Briseno	Toni Hoy	Brittany Stern
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MEMBERS ABSENT

Robert Bloom	William Delgado	Lisa Hampton	Julianna Harms
Gary Seelbach	Mary Spriggs-Ploessl		

STAFF PRESENT

Springfield Location:

Mindy Miller	Lynn Lowder	John Schornagel	Debbi Smith
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Chicago Location: (attending by Video conference)

Robert Watts

LIAISONS PRESENT

None

GUESTS

Springfield Location:

Shawn Cole, Healthcare and Family Services

Chicago Location: (attending by Video conference)

Laura Paul, Office of Attorney General

I. CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chairperson Staton called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. He prefaced the meeting by acknowledging the death of Gubernatorial Appointee and CRSA Chairperson-elect Brooke R. Whitted on June 27, 2014. He indicated that members will be able to express their thoughts and feelings about Mr. Whitted, later in the agenda under Comments and Announcements. Members, staff and guests in attendance introduced themselves. Vice Chairperson Staton welcomed Brittany Stern to her first Authority meeting as the designee from the Illinois Office of Attorney General (OAG).

II. APPROVAL OF THE JUNE 12, 2014 AUTHORITY MINUTES

The Authority reviewed the minutes of the June 12, 2014 Authority meeting. Chairperson Emeritus, David Elder referencing his comments at the last board regarding his diminished energy level, commented that while declining health and energy may keep him away from routine Authority activities, he had to make a personal appearance this month out of respect to Brooke.

MOTION: *Seth Harkins moved and Alan Dietrich seconded that the minutes of the June 12, 2014 Authority meeting be approved with minor amendments. The motion carried unanimously.*

III. STAFF REPORT

Director Schornagel referenced the following informational handout:

- **Staff Activity Report** for June and July 2014.
- **Updated CRSA Membership List**
Director Schornagel announced that the Director Kevin Casey with the Department of Human Services, Division of Developmental Disabilities has appointed **Mary Spriggs-Ploessl** as the primary designee to CRSA from that Division. He commented that Mary is no stranger to the Authority having been appointed briefly as an alternate designee from DHS-DDD in 2004. He also acknowledged and thanked the outgoing DHS-DDD Designee, **Andrea Medley** who has been a member of the Authority since October of 2001. In her nearly 13 years on the Authority, Andrea had served as primary designee and more recently as alternate designee from DHS/DDD. She had been a thoughtful participant on this board during the time that children with developmental disabilities evolved from being the occasional referral to CRSA to becoming the most rapidly emerging sub-population served by CRSA, now comprising over 40% of CRSA's caseload. Director Schornagel welcomed **Brittany Stern** as the newly appointed designee from the Office of Attorney General (OAG). He also thanked **Laura Paul** from the OAG who has represented her agency as a Liaison to CRSA since April of 2014.
- **Alert from the Illinois Department of Human Services** discussing recent intentions and related activities to reorganize the Department of Human Services by consolidation of the Divisions of Mental Health and Alcoholism and Substance Abuse into a single Division called the Division of Mental Health and Addiction Recovery Services. The Governor had attempted to implement the consolidation by Executive Order last April but the implementation was delayed by Senate objections to the consolidation. Director Schornagel commented that there is apparent ongoing interest in implementing this consolidation.
- A document from the **Governor's Office of Health Innovation and Transformation (GOHIT)** briefly outlining the focus of one of the five workgroups that together comprise the Children's Services Subcommittee. He commented that last count, three CRSA board members and three CRSA staff members participate in one or more of GOHIT Workgroups each of which meet every two weeks through January 2015 to accomplish an ambitious work agenda. He added that he will continue to forward GOHIT planning documents in the coming weeks and noted that this group does have a website for those interested in more detailed information. He added that the GOHIT planning group anticipates and is integrating planning activities necessitated by the N.B. Consent Decree anticipated this fall and the emergence of an interagency agreement to satisfy, Public Act 98-808, "The Custody Relinquishment Prevention Act" due to be implemented by July, 2015.

- Copy for the **Public Act 98-0808, The Custody Relinquishment Prevention Act**. Director Schornagel commented that CRSA staff welcomes the resolution of the NB lawsuit and the implementation of the PA 98-808, both of which will hopefully make critically needed children's services more easily available to the folks that call CRSA for help. He added parenthetically, that CRSA's caseload in the last several months documents the system's stubborn and increasing reliance on custody relinquishment practices.
- An invitation to **Brooke Whitted's celebration of life reception** this coming Saturday afternoon, in Wilmette. Director Schornagel commented that this has been a difficult year for CRSA as longtime friends of CRSA have passed on. He noted that a **celebration of life gathering will be held for Jude DeAngelo** on October 5th, in Geneva Illinois urging folks to contact staff at the CRSA office for more specific information on time and location.

IV. AGENCY REPORTS

Shawn Cole from HFS gave a presentation to Authority members and staff in attendance on the Screening, Assessment and Support Services (SASS) program. He reviewed the evolution of SASS services in Illinois and described the SASS program since 2005 as a stable and effective, tri-agency initiative which was most recently renewed in July 2014. Mr. Cole then spoke about current care coordination expansion activities within HFS for all Medicaid-eligible citizens of Illinois. He discussed how those expansion activities might impact the availability and provision of SASS services to Medicaid-eligible children as Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) are phased in over time in to perform Medicaid case management functions. He briefly discussed a 4-county pilot managed-care initiative in Ford, Iroquois, Vermilion and Champaign counties for DCFS wards. Mr. Cole then outlined a gradual Medicaid case coordination expansion timetable and rollout which began in July 2014 in targeted regions of the state, requiring Medicaid recipients to select from managed care organizations which have contracted with HFS to deliver case coordination services. He stated that CARES, as a hub, will play an expanded role as the managed-care roll-out proceeds and that all of the MCO's serving children will make provisions for some form of *SASS-like* face-to-face crisis interventions as they take over case management responsibilities. He added that HFS is providing ongoing technical assistance to the MCO's management organizations during the transition. He added that the MCOs are risk bearing entities and have capitated contracts. Mr. Cole spend a few moments talking about recent CARES statistics noting that of the approximately 26,000 face-to-face SASS screenings take place annually from the 100,000 annual calls to CARES hotline and that approximately half of those screenings result in a hospitalization. He added that schools are the largest referral source for SASS Screenings.

Mr. Cole then responded to questions and concerns. In response to a query about parents' rights, Mr. Cole affirmed that there are circumstances in which children might receive a SASS Screening and be actually admitted to a hospital over 100 miles from the child's home community without any parental awareness and consent. Michele Carmichael commented that in consideration that such large percentage of SASS call coming from public schools, that related parental complaints about schools' involvement in hospitalizations should be shared with the ISBE. In response to question about the timetable for the managed care roll, out he commented that the time table is driven by legislation but that implementation is also dependent on the readiness of Accountable Care Entities (ACEs) and Care Coordination Entities (CCEs) to do the work. When he was asked about a date after which all SASS services in Illinois would be delivered through a managed care approach, he commented that statewide managed care may not occur because in some parts of Illinois the population density may not be sufficient to establish an MCO. Debbi Smith asked if individuals can still be psychiatrically hospitalized though the Certification of Needs procedures within the Illinois Mental Health Code? Mr. Cole commented that any decision to hospitalize a child, whatever process/procedure is used, is ultimately determined by the clinical judgment of physician on site, and who and do override a SASS determinations. He added that length of stay in hospital setting as determined through medical-necessity judgments is also heavily weighted by the treating physician. Toni Hoi asked if MCO's providers would have responsibility to provide

post-hospitalization aftercare, as current SASS agencies provide. Mr. Cole indicated that there would be a “soft-expectation” from HFS for ACE’s and CCE’s to provide post hospitalization aftercare but perhaps not as they are currently defined and provided.

Dr. Harkins noted that the Medicaid transition to managed care is heavily laden with unfamiliar terminology and acronyms and recommended that a plain-language approach devised to make the information easier to understand to consumers and providers. Michele Carmichael commented that the HFS website which documents all aspects of the transition. Director Schornagel stated that he will e-mail an HFS Care Coordination Expansion Map to members and staff, which visual depicts this phase of the Care Coordination expansion.

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. Election of Officers For FY 15

Vice-Chairperson Staton introduced this agenda item by referencing the recent death of CRSA Chairperson-elect, Brooke Whitted which created a vacancy among the CRSA elected Officers for FY 15. Vice-Chairperson, Staton commented the Executive Committee discussed the circumstances at hand; the current membership of the Executive Committee, as well as, the leadership challenges faced by the Authority during 2015 and recommended that Gary Seelbach be considered by the Authority to serve as CRSA Chairperson for the remainder of 2015.

Vice Chairperson Staton stated that while he has sufficient experience in facilitating public meetings and is capable and willing to serve as a CRSA Officer, he would prefer not to ascend to the role of Authority Chairperson of record for FY 15. Director Schornagel updated the Committee that he had discussed Brooke’s death and the CRSA office vacancy it created with CRSA member Gary Seelbach. He commented that Mr. Seelbach was unable to attend the CRSA meetings in August because he was out-of-state, but wanted to share his thoughts about serving again as a CRSA officer, should the topic come up. He relayed to the Committee that Mr. Seelbach expressed a willingness to serve as a CRSA officer if he were requested/elected by the Authority to do so. He also expressed a willingness to serve a CRSA Chairperson under the current circumstances, for the reminder of FY 15, if he were elected by the Authority to do so. However, Mr. Seelbach voiced his belief and preference that leadership of the Authority needed to be shared widely among its members whenever possible.

MOTION: *David Elder moved and Alan Dietrich seconded that the Authority elect Gary Seelbach to serve as CRSA Chairperson for the remainder of FY 15. The Motion carried unanimously.*

B. Other

None

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Binding Authority

Director Schornagel informed the Authority that the issue of binding authority or binding arbitration in CRSA service disputes has surfaced many times over the 29-year history of the Authority, typically in response to the perceived need to promote accountability among CRSA member agencies to affirmatively resolve service/funding disputes that come to the Authority through technical assistance and dispute resolution activities. He added that the board has periodically discussed changes to the

CRSA legislative mandate that would replace the concept of voluntary compliance by member agencies to CRSA recommendations with the concept of binding authority or binding arbitration. Director Schornagel added that recent pressures from the field and from the board for the Authority to respond

flexibly to the needs of children and families have again acted as a catalyst, bringing the concept of binding-authority or binding arbitration to the forefront as a necessary tool to strengthen the CRSA dispute resolution process and the system as a whole.

David Elder recounted the early years of CRSA's forerunner, the Residential Services Authority (RSA), in which the power of the Authority was imbued in a hand full of legislators in both the Illinois House and Senate whose advocacy on behalf of Authority recommendations in individual disputes assured that the services and/or funding recommended by the Authority would actually occur. He opined that, at this time, a statutory amendment to the CRSA legislation giving the Authority binding arbitration in cases meeting the criteria of a CRSA dispute could replace the Director Review level of the dispute process, thus significantly shortening the time it takes to resolve service/funding disputes.

Director Schornagel updated the Authority on the recent statewide human service planning efforts under way by the Governor's Office of Health Innovation and Transformation (GOHIT). He reported that the GOHIT group is essentially proposing a re-design of the Illinois child and adolescent human service system as it pertains to children with behavioral health challenges. He added that the GOHIT mandate is eerily reminiscent of the service planning mandate embedded within the original Residential Services Authority legislation in 1985. He commented that the GOHIT Governance Workgroup has considered governance structures for the system re-design that resembles the structure and membership of the CRSA. In addition, the group has considered a system re-design with cabinet-level participation and accountability to assure that the sort of systemic outcomes sought can indeed be achieved and sustained if and when GOHIT recommendations were implemented. David Elder informed the Authority that the Executive Committee has recommended that Director Schornagel write and present a document to the GOHIT Governance Workgroup urging GOHIT to consider a legislatively based, cabinet-level, *CRSA-like* Governance structure for a revised Illinois human service system for children. The Executive Committee added that the document and commentary should point out CRSA's legislation and structure as already existing Illinois infrastructure and to stress the importance of concept of agency responsibility and accountability for outcomes. Dee Ann Ryan commented that a cabinet-level management and policy tier being considered by the GOHIT group duplicates the CRSA planning mandates, as well as, the mandates of other groups like Association of Community Mental Health Authorities and the Illinois Children's Mental Health Partnership. Seth Harkins opined that CRSA may be at a watershed moment in time and that development of a CRSA historical narrative might be important as the Illinois human service system continues to evolve. Susan Fonfa commented on the importance and value that broad stakeholder participation brings to the GOHIT deliberations. Director Schornagel observed that the intensive GOHIT initiative is legislatively driven, is well staffed, has broad stakeholder participation and has a mood of legitimacy surrounding it. He added that the GOHIT planning effort also coincides with near term needs for Illinois to resolve the N.B. (EPSDT) lawsuit and to implement P.A. 98-0808, giving participants a sense of optimism about the chances of eventual implementation of longer term GOHIT recommendations. He cautioned that while similar well intended, statewide system redesigns plans have been drafted over the last three decades none have been fully supported by the legislature, which stalled or stopped implementation. He concluded that the Authority seeking binding authority or binding arbitration in the near term would indeed be a useful tool to helping families get the right services in the right settings for their children with emotional and behavioral challenges.

B. Other

None

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Ad Hoc Procedural Guidelines Committee

Committee Co-Chairperson, Seth Harkins reported that the Procedural Guidelines Committee met for the first time by video-conference on July 10, 2014. He expressed disappointment over the low turnout, given the energy and urgency expressed by the Board which prompted the creation of the Committee. He reinforced the need for a full committee to proceed responsibly with the work. He reported that those members and staff who attended reviewed the charge and the scope of the committee which he paraphrased as looking for ways to create a structure through which the Authority could review high velocity dispute cases and expedite Authority decision making in this case situations. He reported that the Committee began the process of identify procedural barriers which hamper expeditious reviews of cases by the Authority. Initial identified barriers discussed include getting the right clinical and situational information needed to meet Dispute Resolution eligibility criteria in a timely way and inability to assemble CRSA Technical Assistance Conference panels or Authority Quorums in a timely manner to respond to cases needing Authority action. He added that other barriers were discussed and that the Committee asked staff to examine past dispute resolution cases and to produce data for the Committee to review, specifically: data pertaining to the most challenging CRSA dispute case characteristics and the most salient barriers to timely resolution of CRSA disputes. Dr. Harkins added that the Executive Committee recommended that that the work of the Ad Hoc Procedural Guidelines Committee be put on-hold temporally pending the resolution of the N.B lawsuit and implementation planning work on P.A 98-0808, as both have the potential to change the focus and scope of the Committee's work.

B. Ad Hoc Policy & Communications Committee

Committee Co-chairperson Kathy Briseno reported that the Policy & Communications Committee met on July 10, 2014. She reported that committee reviewed the RSA/CRSA population descriptions over the last 29 years, as well as, the current population descriptor, examining its relevance, in light of original statutory intent and the needs of the current service system. She added that due to the low attendance, this issue will be revisited at the next Policy & Communications Committee meeting when attendance will hopefully be better. The Committee also agreed to begin discussion on the issue of the CRSA tracking the race/ethnicity of CRSA clients.

C. Executive Committee

Vice Chairperson Staton informed the Authority that all of items discussed in Executive Committee have been covered in earlier agenda items.

VIII. OPEN DIALOGUE

A moment of silence and contemplation was observed by those attending the meeting in remembrance of Brooke R. Whitted, who died on July 27 of this year. Director Schornagel commented that Brooke had always been an ardent supporter of the RSA/CRSA and never more supportive than as a Gubernatorial Appointee to the Authority for the last ten years. Director Schornagel commented that he knew Brooke to be a force-for-good in the realm of children's services for the entire time he knew him.

CRSA Chairperson Emeritus, David Elder commented that he and Brooke had become friends over the years and that both shared a passion for the work of the CRSA.

Seth Harkins commented that he had a close friendship with Brooke for decades and that Brooke's passing is a huge loss for him personally. He commented that Brooke's unabashed criticism of those parts of the system that didn't work and his focus on what we do well was healthy for the Authority. He added that the legal perspective that he brought to the Authority complicated the Authority's thinking and kept the Authority on a realistic track. Dr. Harkins concluded that while Brooke could never be replaced on the board, that the role he played on the board was critical to the healthy functioning of the Authority and as such the Board should strive to replicate that role through new appointments to the Board.

IX. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

X. COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Toni Hoy announced that she has been invited to Washington DC in several days in September to receive a Congressional "Angels in Adoption" Award for her work in adoption reform. The Angels in Adoption program honors and recognizes individuals that are making a difference in finding families for children through adoption and foster care. She stated that she is honored to receive the recognition and was nominated for the award by Congressman Brad Schneider, a member of the House of Representatives from Illinois.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: *Michele Carmichael moved and Alan Dietrich seconded that the meeting be adjourned at 11:07 a.m. The motion carried unanimously.*